

WILLIAM AND ANNIE
COLEMAN McMILLAN



William McMillan was born on December 9, 1849, at Liverpool, Lancashire, England. He was one of four children—Ephraim, Phoebe, Mary Ellen and William—born to Daniel and Jennet Davis McMillan. His education was obtained in Liverpool schools, where he became an exceptional speller and penman.

From 1858 to 1865 he was employed in the "Millennial Star" office, a paper published at Liverpool in the interests of the Church.

With the promise of George Q. Cannon, president of the European Mission, to take care of William and Ephraim, William's parents and two sisters came from England

to Utah in 1863. It wasn't until two years later that William and Ephraim came to the United States and drove two yoke of oxen across the plains. The boys traveled with a company. On reaching Utah, William helped his father in the blacksmith shop. He also fought in the Blackhawk War in 1865 as a volunteer member. While still a young man, he formed the first library in Heber City.

On November 15, 1875, he married Margaret Clotworthy, but on January 1, 1879, she died at the birth of her third child, Margaret. Jean and Hugh were the other two children.

On November 25, 1880, he married Annie Coleman in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City. Although Annie Coleman lived in Salt Lake at the time of her marriage, she was born in England. Five girls and four boys were born to them.

After William McMillan moved to Heber City, he worked in the LDS Church a great deal and was superintendent of the Sunday School 18 years. During this time he was also president of the YMMIA and president of the ward teachers.

The fact that he was called all over the county to administer to the sick showed he had the faith of the people.

He worked all day long in his blacksmith shop and sometimes stayed very late to finish work that he had to do. Not only did he stay up for his own work, but would also administer to the sick or go with Bishop Duke to visit the poor. Though he did work hard and served his customers well, his ledger is still full of unpaid accounts. These long hours and excessive use of the left arm caused a wasting of the muscles. It never entered into his mind that he should use a little judgment concerning how much his body could stand. After he had had trouble for two years with his arm, the doctor told him to take a much-needed rest.

George Reynolds, general superintendent of Sunday Schools, happened to be in Heber for conference at this time. Since he had known William McMillan from childhood in Liverpool, Mr. Reynolds suggested that a mission would give him an excellent rest from the tiring job of a blacksmith.

On August 11, 1896, he was called on a mission to Scotland, leaving his wife with eight children. Carl, the youngest, was born

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two months after William had left. While on his mission he kept a diary. In looking over his diary it was found that he fasted and prayed a great many times. He kept his fasting from one day to eighty-eight hours, only lacking eight hours of being four days. During his fasts he asked the Lord to please heal him of the wasting disease he was afflicted with, so that he might finish his mission. He wrote to President Snow to ask him to please offer a prayer for him, even though he had the prayers of the Elders in the field.

While laboring in the mission field he spent six weeks in the hospital. Although many doctors worked with him every morning, they had no encouragement to offer him.

He was gone 22 months, and during his last year he presided over the Scottish Mission. He returned home after he received his honorable release from the president of the European Mission, Rulon S. Wells.

On his return home he was elected county treasurer of Wasatch County, serving nearly six years. He died March 18, 1904, leaving one year of his treasurer's term unfilled. However, his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, completed the term.

Annie Coleman was born May 17, 1859, in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England, the eleventh and youngest child of George and Elizabeth Baily Coleman. Her parents joined the LDS Church in 1844, emigrating with their family in 1864, when Annie was five. Two sisters, Sarah and Elizabeth, and a brother, Samuel, also made the trip in the sailing vessel "Hudson."

The family first settled in Midway, with a brother, Henry Coleman, and later homesteaded a farm in Holladay, Salt Lake County. Annie remained in Salt Lake 17 years, until her marriage to William in 1880.

When William was called to the mission field in Great Britain, Annie remained at home caring for her five daughters and four sons. She operated a small grocery store and farm to provide a living for the family.

While her husband was in the mission field he presided over the Scottish district and labored with a young missionary, Elder David O. McKay, who later became president of the LDS Church.

When Annie's mother died, in 1887, she

cared for her father, and also took care of her father-in-law several years prior to his death. She reared a step-daughter for 16 years and took care of an invalid brother, Samuel, for 60 years, until his death.

Her children include Mrs. Theodore (Elizabeth) Jaspersen, Mrs. George (Annie) Fisher, Mrs. H. R. (Nora) Read, Mrs. Walter (Phyllis) O'Toole, George and Carroll McMillan.

Annie died at her home, November 6, 1939, and services were held in Wasatch Tabernacle.

John Robert Hicken
as
Alice